

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

KMW Ltd

Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center

KMW Improves Process with Lean Manufacturing

Client Profile:

KMW Ltd. (Kansas Machine Works) located in Sterling, Kansas, is an original equipment manufacturer of front end loaders and related products. KMW was founded in 1965 and currently employs 105 people.

Situation:

KMW continuously looks for new ways to improve its efficiency and its ability to respond to customer demand. KMW contacted the Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC), a NIST MEP affiliate, for help.

Solution:

MAMTC directed KMW through a two-day Value Stream Mapping (VSM) exercise of the loader assembly process. During a VSM, a current state map is compared to a future state map to uncover any non-value-added steps. The company, with assistance from MAMTC, then began to make changes based on the results of the VSM using Lean concepts and techniques including cellular manufacturing.

Results:

- * Anticipated sales increase of \$4 million.
- * Reduced inventory by \$170,000.
- * Increased sales per employee by \$1,389.
- * Created 14 new jobs
- * Continued Lean implementation with MAMTC.

Testimonial:

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